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The University of Dayton

News Release

Feb. 23, 1994

Contact: Candace Stuart

UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON ART STUDENTS TO OPEN AND OPERATE OWN GALLERY

DAYTON, Ohio -- Here's one way aspiring artists might get their work exhibited in a local gallery: run the place themselves.

That's what nearly 15 members of the University of Dayton's Alpha Gamma Tau professional art fraternity have done with Chimera, a gallery they operate at 257 Wayne Ave. in the city's Oregon District. The gallery's grand opening of a juried art show is 7-11 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 24.

"We just wanted a way to get our own work recognized and get experience in hanging and organizing shows," says senior Kerry Faulkner, a photography major and one of the gallery managers.

Students were encouraged to run the gallery by John Britt, a faculty member in UD's visual arts department. Since early February, they've been painting, dusting and hanging runners on the concrete walls. "It was a mess," says Faulkner, laughing. But the gallery's all-important lighting "was really OK," she said.

Students have rented and are fixing up the gallery with funds from visual arts department alumni and the University's Program Funding Council. The Miami Valley Regional Arts Council may also chip in funds. Faculty members judged the 32 student pieces which comprise

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the Feb. 24 premiere but the real decision-making and learning on this project has come from the students.

"We're learning how to apply for grants, dealing with space and managing our money, and the whole process of hanging a show," says Faulkner. She says the UD profs have offered their advice, but "we're trying to do this on our own." And that's valuable experience for someone like Faulkner. Her career aspirations?

"I'd like to be a curator."

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For interviews, call **John Britt** at (513) 229-3261; and UD students **Kerry Faulkner** at (513) 224-4751, **Michael Lum** at (513) 224-5881 and **Gretchen DePoint** at (513) 461-3959. For more information, call **Candace Stuart** at (513) 229-3257.